

## Unit 4: Building a Vulnerability Assessment

### Defining Objectives and Scope

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### Setting goals for a VA

- What decisions need to be supported?
  - Addressing a mandate or institutional mission?
  - Weighing the threat of CC against other stressors?
  - Prioritization of species / habitats?
- Who are the stakeholders?




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### A few steps to help identify objectives

1. Write down all the concerns you hope to address after the VA is complete
  - What would be nice to know?
  - What's most important to know?
2. Translate concerns into succinct objectives

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## 2. Translating concerns succinctly

- Use directional language when possible
  - Maximize the extent assessed within park boundary
  - Minimize cost of assessment

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  - Maximize the extent assessed within park boundary
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- Avoid objectives with ambiguous direction
  - Optimize the assessment to inform management decisions

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## 2. Translating concerns succinctly

- Use directional language when possible
  - Maximize the extent assessed within park boundary
  - Minimize cost of assessment
- Avoid objectives with ambiguous direction
  - Optimize the assessment to inform management decisions
  - Maximize number of targets addressed in the VA
  - Minimize uncertainty and/or identify areas where uncertainty will influence decisions

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## A few steps to identify objectives

3. Separate ends from means to establish fundamental objectives
  - Acquire downscaled data on exposure for Alaskan NP
    - Means objective

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## A few steps to identify objectives

3. Separate ends from means to establish fundamental objectives
  - Acquire downscaled data on exposure for Alaskan NP
    - Why?
  - More exposure = more species response and increased need for mgmt
    - Why manage and monitor?
  - Because NPS is obliged to “conserve the scenery...and the wild life therein” (NPS Organic Act)
    - FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE

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## A few steps to identify objectives

4. Clarify what is meant by each objectives
  - Objective: Develop a VA for species and habitats of greatest concern
    - Why those species?
    - What kind of VA?

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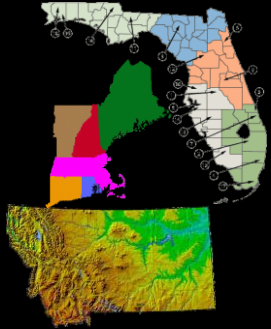
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## Determine spatial and temporal scale

Spatial extent

Spatial resolution

Time frames



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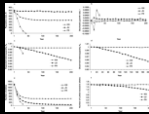
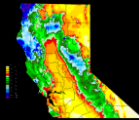
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## Select assessment approach

Methods

Tools

Timeline



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